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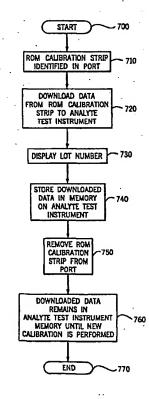
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(54) Title: ANALYTE TEST INSTRUMENT HAVING IMPROVED CALIBRATION AND COMMUNICATION PROCESSES

#### (57) Abstract

An analyte test instrument having improved calibration and communication processes. The instrument employs a calibration method that allows it to communicate with any one of a plurality of data storage strips. A data storage strip including a memory device is inserted into the test port of the instrument. The data storage strip is identified, and the instrument establishes communications with the data storage strip using a protocol corresponding to the data storage strip. Second, the instrument employs a method for ensuring that the instrument is operated using valid calibration strips and test strips. The instrument determines whether one or more of test parameters stored in the instrument is invalid for a test strip inserted into the test port of the instrument. If a test parameter is invalid, an indication of the invalid strip parameter is displayed on the display. Finally, the instrument utilizes a method for determining the actual date and time of events that occurred before the instrument was provided with current date and time.



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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G01N33/487 G05B19/12 G06K19/07 G07C3/04 G07C1/00 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) GO1N GO5B GO6K GO7C Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category 5 Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. WO 97 08544 A (ANDCARE INC) 1,9,23 6 March 1997 (1997-03-06) page 2, line 25 - line 26 page 4, line 19 - line 26 page 13, line 1 - line 5 page 16, line 11 -page 17, line 6 page 21, line 3 - line 5 X 1-3,2310-15 page 26, line 8 - line 13 page 38, line 1 - line 22 page 39, line 12 - line 22 WO 97 29847 A (SELFCARE INC) 10-15 21 August 1997 (1997-08-21) page 4, line 18 - line 35 Α page 3, line 20 -page 4, line 14 1-9,16.23-25 page 5, line 19 - line 23; figures 6A-6E page 7, line 21 - line 28; figures 6A-E Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. X Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: T later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the international filling date but later than the priority date claimed \*&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 23,06.00 16 June 2000 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31–70) 340–3016 Hocquet, A

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Box	Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)
This Inte	emational Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:
1.	Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2.	Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such
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з. []	Claims Nos.:
	because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).
Box II	Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)
This Inter	national Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:
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	see additional sheet
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1. X	As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2	As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. <u> </u>	As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report povers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4.	to required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is estricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:
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Remark o	n Protest  The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
	X No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

## FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-17,23-25

Methods for using an analyte test instrument having a test port receiving test strips or data storage strips.

2. Claims: 18-22

Method for determining date and time in an analyte test instrument  $% \left( 1\right) =\left( 1\right) \left( 1\right)$ 

information on patent family members

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